

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. By this Response, claims 1, 8, 15 and 24 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukui et al. (USP 6,466,685); claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukui and Kado et al. (USP 6,181,806); and claims 6, 7, 13, 14 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukui and Fujimoto et al. (USP 6,035,074). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 24 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, carrying out the position matching between the face template and the face area to be extracted, by moving an unsharp face template and/or an unsharp image so that the face template is positioned on the face area to be extracted, while transforming and/or rotating the unsharp face template and/or the unsharp image on the face are position according to an input from input means by a user. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not taught by Fukui or Fujimoto.

Fukui teaches a pattern recognition apparatus which performs pattern recognition by excluding unnecessary pattern change elements from the image. In Fukui's system, an image pattern of an object is inputted into the system. An input subspace is then calculated from the image pattern. A dictionary subspace section calculates a subspace from each object for storage in the dictionary subspace memory. A constraint subspace calculation is performed from a plurality of input subspaces appears to be calculated according to certain constraints to suppress unnecessary patterns. A projection section then projects the input subspace and the dictionary subspace onto the constraint subspace. A recognition section recognizes the objects by comparing the projected input subspace with the projected dictionary subspace. Fukui's system relies upon the subspace method which is a pattern recognition method. Fukui's system relies upon various degrees of subspace recognition and compares them. The Fukui system, however,

does not teach or suggest performing position matching between a face template and a face area by using the unsharp face template and/or the unsharp image.

Fujimoto teaches an image processing system that performs recognition of a face of a human object using color data for recognition of a face. Once the face area has been recognized, a frame is formed to the size of the face area. The area enclosed in the frame can then be cut out of the image. Fujimoto's system relies upon color data for recognition of the face image. Fujimoto's system does not create a face template which can be then removed and positioned matched based on the unsharp face template and/or the unsharp image. Nowhere does Fujimoto teach or suggest using an unsharp face template and/or an unsharp image in determining position matching or a face template with the face.

Further, Kado fails to remedy the deficiencies of Fukui and Fujimoto. Kado is relied upon to teach aspects of the dependent claims and not features of independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 24.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Fukui alone or in combination with Fujimoto fail to teach each and every feature of Applicants independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 24. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

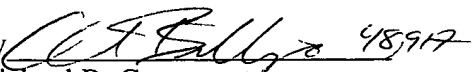
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-24 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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